1/27/70

Mr. James J. Rowley, Director
U.S. Secret Service
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Rowley,

Mr. Thomas was informed on Monday that a copy of the 8 mm film of Kennedy at the Zapruder sale was been loaned to him and copied by him. I request to view it Friday. Although I regard it as strange that this film was not given the Warren Commission and was not considered by it, and although I think this should have been provided the National Archives long before this, I do thank you for this belated action. I have asked Mr. Rhoads for all communications with the Secret Service relating to this and for copies of all reports, memoranda and various other records relating to the original obtaining of this film, analysis of it, etc. I presume you have provided all three sections relating to Oswald.

I have long been interested in and disturbed by the absence of sequences in the film copy used, from official descriptions in my possession, once here in it. Still pictures of some of these were made and also are not in the Archives. I believe your own files should reflect this.

There are a number of questions I have addressed to the Secret Service that I believe to be proper and to which I believe existing law requires prompt and meaningful response and to which I have had no response. I regret this, and I do hope you will see to it that there now is proper response that is both prompt and meaningful. There are records to which I am entitled that you have said you do not have and that are not in the Archives. I tell you with complete candor that it is beyond belief that the Secret Service has no copies and does not know what it was done with the originals, least of all on this subject. I hope you will reconsider and supply these. I am aware of the potential embarrassment involved, for they should be inconsistent with records that are available, but I suggest continued refusal to make these records available to me may ultimately cause greater embarrassment. The law precludes the possibility of official embarrassment as an excuse for refusing to supply them.

In addition, I now have evidence of the existence of a number of other Secret Service records of various sorts, including memoranda and receipts, and including relating to the medical-autopsy evidence, that are not in the Commission's original files as transferred to the Archives and, according to the Archivist, have not since been supplied by you. I also have the assurance of the Secret Service that it had transferred all such records to the Archives. We both know which is the correct statement. I am asking that now, belatedly, I be given access to all this withheld material. I do hope you will delay this no longer. I think it would be less embarrassing and would make a record you might find less incriminal if I did not have to itemize these things in writing. Unless I have no reason to believe you want to discuss this with me or have any intention of accepting the offers I have made in the past, should you, I expect to be at the Archives about 11 a.m. 1/30/70.

Sincerely,
Harold Weisberg